



5-16  
1941

# DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

## INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

For Release ON RECEIPT

A handbook of the commercial fisheries and fishery industries of the United States for 1938 (the latest summary available) has been released for distribution by the Fish and Wildlife Service, United States Department of the Interior.

Including a complete report on all aspects of activities and welfare of fishermen and shoresmen, the new publication, Fishery Industries of the United States, 1939, Administrative Report No. 41, contains, also, information on the fish canning and preserving industries, and the trade in fishery products. Data on the total catch of fishery products were collected in all sections of the United States except the Mississippi River area.

The total catch of fishery products in the United States and Alaska, as based on the most recent surveys, amounted to 4,253,445,000 pounds, valued at \$93,547,000. More than 130,000 fishermen were employed in making this catch.

The combined catch in the areas surveyed, reports R. H. Fiedler, Chief, Division of Fishery Industries, under whose direction the report is issued annually, shows a decline of 2 percent in volume and 7 percent in value, as compared with the catch in the same sections during the preceding year.

Decreased catches were made in each of the geographical sections except the Chesapeake Bay, and the South Atlantic and Gulf States. Marked declines in the value of the catch occurred in the New England, South Atlantic and Gulf, and Pacific Coast States, and in Alaska.

The value of the pack of canned fishery products in all sections declined 21 percent as compared with 1937; byproducts decreased 17 percent; cured fish about 5 percent; and packaged fish, 2 percent.

Production of canned fishery products in the United States and Alaska during 1938 amounted to 667,527,840 pounds, valued at \$83,445,889; with byproducts valued at \$30,576,367; the output of frozen fishery products, excluding packaged products, amounted to 117,125,519 pounds, estimated to be valued at \$7,800,000; and fresh and frozen packaged fish and shellfish, 216,661,255 pounds, valued at \$27,243,645.

Based on surveys for 1938 in all sections except the Mississippi River area, and for 1931 in that area, the output of cured fishery products amounted to 102,617,256 pounds, valued at \$14,865,530. It is estimated that about 680,000,000 pounds of fresh fishery products (excluding packaged fish and shellfish) valued at about \$50,000,000 were marketed during 1938. The total marketed value to domestic primary handlers of all fishery products in 1938 is estimated at \$214,000,000.